THE Lieutenant of the Tower his Speech and Repentance, at the time of his death, who was executed vpon Tower-hill, on the 20 day of Nouember 1615.

Together with a Meditation and Vow of his that he made not long before he dyed.

Mors mihi Lucrum.

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BRITISH
MUSEUM

To the Reader.

TO satisfie the world which in a cause of this Nature is commonly distracted into various opinions, adding or detracting from the truth, according to the humorous disposition with which it meetes. And to do Right to the dead Gentleman, (who albeit his offence was fowle to GOD and Man, and hatefull to himselfe) deserued both loue and pitty, for the Christian end hee made) haue I (Reader) for thy sake collected the substance of that Speech deliuered by him, before his Execution: though I may

faile in circumstance, perhaps in his order. Many false copies of it passe from hand to hand, and many vntrue rumors of him. This (if thou art not too much giuen ouer to misbeleife) will stay both, as being with much labour gotten together, and confirmed by approbation of such iudgements as were then present, and neereſt, and beſt vnderstood him: though I confeſſe it falls short of that grace and life wherewith he deliuered it: who, I muſt needs ſay, did it more exactly, euen beyond ordinary report. And ſo praying vnto Almighty God that thou maieſt make that good vſe of this diſcourſe as he ment thee that made it, and as I do that relate it, I commit thee to God.

THE

The effect of Sir Geruase Elwis his speech which he made at his death on the *Tower hill*, vpon the 26. day of Nouember.

I See many Faces in this place, which I know right well, both Lords and Gentlemen whom I haue honored, and still loue, with many others of seuerall dispositions. All you being thus assembled to see me finish my dayes, the number of which is sum'd vp,

for the very minutes of my life may now be reckoned: your expectation is to haue me say somthing to giue satisfaction to the world; and I will do it so far as I can, albeit in that speech of mine I shall (as it was spoken vnto me the last night) but chatter like a Crane. But whatsoeuer I deliuer, I beseech you to take from a wounded bosome; for my purpose is to rip vp my very heart, and to leaue nothing there which may proue any clog to my conscience.

Hither am I come to performe a worke which of all others is to Man most easie, and yet to flesh and blood is the hardest, and that is to dye. To hide therefore any thing for any worldly respect, were to leaue a blot vpon my owne soule, which I trust shall be presented through the mercies of my maker, & merits of my Sauiour,

acceptable

acceptable before Gods high Tribunall

And first I will labour to satisfie some, who before my apprehension were well conceited of me, but since my araignment, as I understand, carried of me but hard opinions, for that at the Barre I stood stifly vpon the iustice of my Innocence; and this they impute as a great fault, being afterwards that I was found guilty of the crime. To which I answer, that I did it ignorantly: nay I was so far from thinking my selfe foule in the fact, that vntill these two Gentlemen, (Doctor *Felton* and Dr. *Whiting*, the Phisitians, for my soule) told me how deepely I had imbrewed my hands in the bloud of that Gentleman, making me by Gods law as guilty in the concealing, as if I had beene a personall Actor in it: till then I say, I held my selfe

so

so ignorant of the deed, and my conscience so cleare, that I did neuer aske God forgiuenesse, nor once repent me of the Fact, such was my blindnes. So that it was not onely an errour, or rather a horrible sinne, in me to consent, but a worse to deny it, so Bloudy, so Treacherous, so foule, so filthy a fact as that was, for which I must confesse, the King, and the State haue dealt honorably, roundly, and iustly with me, in condemning me vnto this death. And thus haue I laboured and done my best to cleere this point, being willing by all good meanes to reduce your first opinions of me, that as formerly you conceited well of me, so you would now with a charitable affection performe the last duty of your Christian loues towards me, praying to God both with me, and for me, to the intent that this cup, where-

of I am to drinke, may not be grieuous vnto me, but that it may be a ioyfull conuayance to a better and bleſſed comfort.

Some perhaps will thinke it to be a rigor of the State, or aggrauation of my iudgment that I ſhould die in this place: but this do I take as an honour vnto me, and herein do I acknowledge my ſelfe to ſtand much bound to the State, in that I haue this fauour vouchſafed me to ſuffer death in ſight of my *Charge*, euen where I had ſinned, on the Tower-hill, rather then in the place of common Execution where euery baſe Malefactor dieth.

Many do I ſee here whom I know well, and of whom I am likewiſe knowne: and now am I a Spectacle for them to be looked on whom in former times (and in all mens accounts) they held neuer likely

to come to ſuch an end. But herein behold the iuſtice of God, who is ſo oppoſed againſt ſinne, becauſe that if we forget to ſeeke him whilſt we may, he will find vs out when we would not be found of him.

It is expected I ſhould ſay ſomething of the fact which I haue committed: And hither am I come reſolued to cleare my conſcience (before I depart this world) of all matters which I either know, or can now remember. And ſo much I haue already deliuered in writing to my Lord *Chiefe Iuſtice*: and to Proue that which I wrote is true, I yeſterday confirmed it with the receiuing of the bleſſed Sacrament, wiſhing vnto you al as much comfort by thoſe holy *Myſteries*, as I tooke by them: and I do here (though not with ſuch a bloud) yet with mine owne bloud, ſeale that which I haue

haue written. For my ſelfe I will hide nothing to make my fault ſeeme leſſe but wil rip open this very heart of mine, and confeſſe before God mine owne vncleaneſſe.

I haue ſinned exceedingly againſt thee my maker, and in this am I moſt faulty, that I did not reueale to the King, ſo ſoone as I my ſelfe had knowledge of the buſines. But (alas) feare to looſe theſe worldly pleaſures, & the loue to promotion, made me forget my duty to my Soueraigne, and not to regard my God, who is a ſwift auenger of blood: and would to heauen I had truſted to his prouidence, & ſet the things of this world at nought, for heauens ſake and a good conſcience. You ſee, Gentlemen, promotion cannot reſcue vs from the iuſtice of God, which alwaies purſues after ſin: And therefore I exhort you not

to truſt in men (how great ſoeuer,) for they cannot hide themſelues when god is angry, neither can they protect you from ſhame, when God will conſume you, he that ſitteth in heauen, will deride and ſcorne their fooliſh inuentions. As for me I will not ſpare to lay open my owne ſhame; Thinke you I care for the reputation of this world? No, I weigh it not. This my ſoule ſhall receiue more comfort from God in my vpright dealing.

My ſinne, in this foule fact, was great; for vpon me lay all the blood, ſhed, and to be ſhed, I haue made many children fatherleſſe, many wiues husbandleſſe, many parents childleſſe; and I my ſelfe leaue a comfortleſſe wife and eight children behind me for it too: for if I had reuealed it when I might, I had freed much

blood from being spilt, in so much as I could wish (Gods iustice and charity reserued) I might hang in chains till I rot away by peecemeale, nor cared what tortures my bodie were put vnto, so I might expiat or free the blood of so many (some in one place and some in another) which is both like to be shed, and is already shed, and the Lord knowes when it wil haue an end.

Concerning my selfe, I will agrauate the crime, by speaking of euery circumstance I can remember. And now it comes into my mind, what trust that Gentleman put into me, reputing me most faithfull vnto him: (Oh the vildnes of my hart,) I proued vnfaithful, & was his deadly deceitful friend. And heere (Gentlemen) I exhort you all that you would take notice of this, euer to be faithfull to those that put you in trust.

Sir *Thomas O.* truſted me; and I was vnfaithfull and treacherous to him, in drawing tickets from him to his diſaduantage. I promiſed him ſecrecy, yet betraied him, only to ſatisfie greatnes: but God, who ſees the ſecret thoughts of mans hart, will diſcloſe all vniuſt actions at laſt: nay I am perſwaded that whoſoeuer they be that commit ſinne in their child-hood, at one time or other it will be reuealed.

C3 In this place it commeth to my mind, that in my yonger daies (as well beyond the Seas as here) I was much addicted to that idle veine of Gaming, *I* was bewitched with it indeede: and I plaied not for little or ſmall ſums neither, but for great-ones, yet euer haunted with ill luck, & vpon a time, being much diſpleaſed at my loſſe, I ſaid; (not in a careles manner) would I might be hanged

hanged, But seriously, and aduisedlie (betweene God & my selfe) clapping my hand vpon my breast, I spake thus, if euer I plaie againe, then let me behangd. Now gentlemen here you may behold the iustice of God paying me my wish and imprecation home be careful therfore I exhort you that you vow nothing but that vnto which you will giue all diligence to performe; for the powerfull God, before whom you make such vowes, will otherwise be auenged.

In this place D. Whiting *putting him in minde to satisfie the world touching his Religion, thus he went on.*

THe matter you speake to me of, saith hee is well thought vpon: for I heare that abroad hath beene some murmuring and questions made about me for

my

my religion, some giuing out that I was infected with Anabaptisme, a fond, ridiculous, foolish and phantasticall opinion, which I neuer affected but rather despised.

Many may thinke that the manner of my death doth much discourage me, that I should die in a halter, I would haue you all to thinke that I scorne all such worldly thoughts: I care not for it, I value not any earthly shame at all, so as I may haue honor and glory anon in heauen: and I make no doubt, but I shal sodainly be more happie then you all, and that I shall see God face to face; and if there be any point of innocency in me at all, I vtterly cast it from me, and I do commit it wholly to God.

And for any matter of glory, I do with the Saints of God expect it through the

merits

merits of Christ, at the Resurrection: yea it is my glory to dye thus. I might haue died in in my bed, or shooting the bridge, or else haue fallen downe sodainly, in which death I should haue wanted this space to repent, being the sweet comfort and assured hope of Gods fauour, which of his mecry hee hath vouchsafed me, so that it swaloweth vpall feare of death, or reproach of the world: wishing vnto you all (Gentlemen) who now behould me, that whereseoeuer you shall die, (either in your beds or els- where howsoeuer) you may feele such comfort and resolution, as God in his mercy hath bestowed vpon me and my wounded Soule for this and the rest of my greeuous Sinnes.

But me thinks I heare some of you coniecture and say, that I expresse no great

arguments or ſignes of ſorow: You think my heart ſhould rather diſolue and melt into teares, then to appeare ſo inſenſible of feare as I may ſeeme: but I muſt tell you teares were neuer common in me. I haue bin couragious both beyond the Seas and heere in my owne country: but (Gentlemen) that was when there was no perill before me. But now the ſtroke of death is vpon me. It affrights me, and there is cauſe to feare, yet notwithſtanding, my heart ſeemeth vnto you to be rather of ſtone than of fleſh. But I would haue you vnderſtand, that this bouldnes doth not proceed from any manly fortitude, for I am a man, fraile as you are, aud dare as little looke death in the face as any other: the terrors of death do as much trouble my humane ſence, as any mans whatſoeuer: but that which ſwaloweth vp all manner

of feare in me, and maketh me to glory and to reioyce, is, the full assurance which I conceiue of the vnspekable loue of God to those who are his, of which number I perswade my selfe to be one, and that I shall presently enioy it.

I confesse I haue sinned exceedingly against thee (oh God) many waies, in propophaning thy holy Sabaoths, in taking thy glorious name in vaine, in my concupiscence, in turning all thy graces into wantonesse, in my Riotous wasting so many of thy good creatures, as would haue relieued many poore people, whose praiers I might haue had this day.

I haue sinned against thee in my Childhood, but childrens sinnes are childishly performed; but I confirmed them in my

manhood, there was my ſinne. I am perſwaded, there is no ſinne, that a man committeth in his life, knowing it to be a ſinne, and not repenting of it but the Lord will iudge it.

I admoniſh you therefore that are here aſſembled, to take good notiſe of your ſinnes, and let none eſcape you vnrepented, and yet when you haue done the beſt you can, there will lye buried ſome one ſinne or other ſufficient to condemne you.

O LORD cleanſe me from my ſecret ſinnes, which are in me ſo rife. I abuſed the tender education of my Parents. You perhaps that knew me will ſay no, I liued in an honeſt forme, and was not bad in my life.

But I know beſt my ſelfe what I was; and if I who was ſo eſteemed of amongſt Men, ſhall ſcarcely be ſaued, what will become of thoſe whom you point at for notorious liuers.

The laſt night God put into my mind, the remembrance of one ſinne of mine, which heere I will lay open, that others may take heed. I tooke a vaine pride in my Pen, and ſome of my friendes would tell mee I had ſome indouments and ſpeciall gift that way: (though I ſay not ſo my ſelfe,) but marke the iudgement of GOD in this, that pen which I was ſo proud of, hath ſtrucke mee dead, and like *Abſolons* hayre hath hanged mee: for there hath dropt a word or two from my Pen, in a letter of mine, which vpon my my Saluation I am not able to anſwere,

or to giue any good account of. At my Arraignment I pleaded hard for life, and protested my innocency, but when my owne Pen came against mee, I was forthwith not able to speake any thing for my selfe; for I stood as one amazed, or that had no Tongue.

See (Gentlemen) the iust iudgment of God, who made that thing of which I was most proud, to be my bane, take notice how strangly sinne is punished, and learne euery-one to striue against it.

I haue heard the word of GOD, and often read it, (but without vse) for I must tell you, theese two worthy Gentlemen (to whom I am so much bounden, God reward them for their loue) euen they begat me very lately, for I am not ashamed to confesse that I was to be begotten vnto Christ

Christ within these three dayes; yea I haue often prayed against sinne, and made many vowes to forsake it, but vpon the next occasion, my foule heart hath beene ready to runne with the wicked.

Had I learned but this one lesson in the 19. Psalme, (Depart from mee ye wicked, I will keepe the commandements of my God &c.) I had beene likely to haue enioyed many dayes heere on earth. whereas now you all see mee ready to be cut short by reason of my sinne.

But (O LORD) albeit thou slayest me yet will I put my trust in thee: let the LORD doe to me what hee will I will dye vpon this hand: (of trustiug in him) if I faile many a soule hath miss'd? but I haue sure hope of mercy in him; hee hath

ſufficed and ſuccoured mee I am ſure, euer ſince the Sentence of death hath paſſed vppon mee. Such comfort flowing from the Godly indeauours of theſe Gentlemen (the Diuines) that neither the Reproach of this Death, nor the Torment of it hath any whit diſcourged me, nay, let me tell you, the laſt night when I heard the time was appointed, and ſaw the warrant in Maſter Sheriffs hand for my death, it no whit daunted me; But what put this courage into me? onely the hope which I had in Gods mercies.

This HOPE was a Seede, and this Seede muſt come from a Roote. I looked vpon my ſelfe, and there was rather cauſe to deſpaire, and iuſt cauſe that I ſhould not approach GODS preſence. Thus then I diſputed with GOD; This Hope being

a Seede must haue a Roote, and this Root is not any thing in Man, no, it is *præscienti:* (thy fore-knowledge,) O God, who hast elected me from eternity.

I will tell you, I receiued more comfort this morning, comming along the streets, then euer I did in all my life, I saw much people gathered together, all the way as I came, to see me brought to this shamefull end: who with their hearty prayers and well wishings gladded and comforted my very soule: insomuch as I could wish that I had come from Westminster hither. I protest vnto you, I thinke I could neuer haue died so happily in my bed.

But you will say, these are but speeches, and that I being so neere death, my heart

cannot be so free, as I seeme in my speech: I confesse, there are in my breſt frailties, which do terrifie, and will ſtill be buſie wirh me, but I beſeech you when I am at the ſtroake of death, that you would pray to God (with me) that neither Sathans power, nor my weakeneſſe, may hinder my confidence And beſeech God that amongſt all who this day heare me, ſome may profit by my end: if I get but one Soule, I ſhall haue much comfort in that, for that one ſoule may beget another, and that other another.

I haue held you to long, but I will draw to an end; intreating you all to ioyne in prayer to God for me.

Tower his ſpeech.

The ſumme of his prayer.

O *Lord God omnipotent, who ſitteſt in Heauen, and ſeeſt all things which are done on earth: to whom are knowne all occaſions of men, And who doſt deride and laugh to ſcorne their Fopliſh inuentions: thou (Lord) who art powerfull to ſaue at an inſtant, bow downe the Heauens and behould Me (wreched ſinner,) vnworthy to looke vp, or lift vp my hands vnto thee. Remember not (O Lord) the ſinnes which I haue comitted, Driue away this miſt which is before me, and breake thoſe thick Clowds which my ſins haue made, and may let my requeſt to come into thy preſence. Strengthen me in the middeſt of Death, in the aſſurance of thy Mercies, and giue me a ioyfull paſſage into thy heauenly reſt, now and for euer. Amen.*

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After hee had thus Prayed, hee tooke his leaue of all, with these words.

GEntlemen, I ſhall ſee your faces now no more: and pulling downe his Cap in his eyes, ſaid ſome priuat prayers, in which time the Doctors prayed, and called to him, that hee would remember his aſſurance, and not be diſmaied at the Cup, that hee was to drinke of: Hee anſwered, *I will drinke it vp, and neuer looke what is in it*. And after a little time more ſpent in priuat prayer, hee ſaid, *Lord receaue my Soule*: And ſo yeelded vp the Ghoſt.

His

His Meditation and Vow, not long before his Death.

VVHen I considered Herods State, who though he heard Iohn Baptist gladly, yet was he intangled with Herodias, and how Agrippa liked so well of Paul as he was perswaded almost to become a Christian, and how the young mans will was good to folow Christ, yet was there one thing wanting, me thought the state of sinnefull man was not vnlike. So also how the angler, though hauing caught a Fish but by the chaps, accounts it as his owne: the Bird taken but by the heele is a prey vnto the Fowler: the Iayler also holds his prisoner by one ioynt as safe, as cast in Iron chaines, then did I thinke what doe these motions good, if not effected to the full? what though notoriously euill? one

ſinne ſufficeth to condemne: and is he guilty of all that guilty is of one? then ſaid I vnto the Lord I will freely cleanſe my waies and waſh my hands in innocency: I will take heed that I offend not with my tongue. Lord let my thoughts be ſuch as I may alwaies ſay, try and examine me if there be any vnrighteouſneſſe in mee.

Sir Geruaſe Elowis.

BRIT MUSEUM

FINIS.